



Red

Jan De Kinder

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In this poignant story, a girl finds it funny when her classmate starts blushing on the school playground. Her friends laugh along with her, but one student takes the teasing too far. Torn between her sympathy for her classmate and her fear of the bully, the girl must make a difficult choice.

This heartfelt book will inspire readers to find the courage to take a stance against bullying and show compassion towards others.

Red Details

Date : Published March 9th 2015 by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9780802854469

Author : Jan De Kinder

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Academic, School



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Allison says

"Red" by Jan De Kinder, is a thought-provoking story about a young boy that is constantly getting picked on for his red cheeks. Tommy, the young boy, frequently blushes and when a young girl, Lisa points this out, his cheeks only turn more red. Paul, who capitalizes on Lisa pointing out his big cheeks becomes the main character that picks on Tommy. He is big, strong, and intimidating, and most people do not have the courage to stand up to him. However, Lisa, a young girl in their class, has a different idea. After Paul brutally upsets Tommy, Lisa calls him out for his actions, and stands up for Tommy. Soon after she does this, another student stands up for Tommy too, and this chain reaction continues, until the bullies actions are no longer a secret. I really enjoyed reading this book since it felt empowering. At the end, you wanted to stand up for Tommy too, and that is all because of the author's exceptional work in this book. The author does a great job with the literary element of color in this book. The red not only captures the readers attention and describes the title of the book, it also allows the reader to feel the anger Tommy has about being bullied. The author does a great job using figurative language in the book as we see Lisa describing Paul using similes such as "tongue sharp as a knife" that bring the character to life. One criticism I have of this book is that it ends in an odd way. We don't really get to see how Tommy feels about the children standing up for him or how his life is impacted after this event. I think this would be interesting and beneficial for students to see. I would use this book in my classroom as a tool to persuade my students to be kind to one another and stand up for each other. I plan to have this on my classroom shelves one day for sure.

Braley Hale says

The theme of this book is bullying. In the beginning of the book, the little girl makes fun of the new student because he would always blush and get really red. She starts to laugh at him because of this. Then she starts to feel guilty because he gets really angry, and I liked how the illustrations went along with the words and feelings. But then one student says some mean words and made him even more angry. The little girl who first said something about his blushing finally stood up for him. Therefore, this book is great to show to younger kids so they know how bullying can hurt someone's feelings.

Edward Creter says

I remember being a kid, bullied often by others my age, to the point where my only true friends were those of my own imagination. I had no one to stand up for my defense, and as I grew, I decided that one day I would live the life of a nice person, one who would never visit the selfsame abuse as others did upon me. Red by Jan de Kinder is a reminder of what was, what shoulda been, and what can still be for the new generation of kids who train themselves in mind and spirit to be the inner heroes and heroines I strive to become in my own life. A young girl witnesses a small boy get red in the face being taunted by a bigger classmate in the school playground. She's a shy witness and doesn't know how to protect the younger boy alone, but soon she may find there's strength in numbers, and red is, as Stephen Crane once had it, the color of the badge of courage. Moms and dads, even teachers and therapists, should read this with kids as encouragement to face bullying head on and conquer fear inner and external. True fighting for what's right is not with fists or guns, but with the mind and heart, and this is what the color of red is all about: red is the color of a warrior's heart.

Five stars
Red ROCKS with heart!!!

Linda says

A young girl makes a teasing remark bout a boy who blushes, hence the "red", but others take her teasing to a mean level, until finally a bully gets rough. She does speak up first, scary as it is, and helps stop it, learns that others will back her, too. This book comes from Belgium, with what seems to be charcoal sketching, each page showing action on the playground, but especially wonderful expressions on the kids' faces. This will be a great book to start conversations about teasing, bullying, and being an ally.

Emily Scheinman says

illustrations capture emotions beautifully

Li Sifan(Liona) says

I chose this book because its theme was bullying, and I also participated in a course called bullying this semester. What students should do when they receive bullying for some reason is the subject of this book. Tommy was bullied by the classmates because he was always blushing, and the name "red" was exactly why Tommy was bullied. Bullying in schools is an event that every country will have. However, in China, the bullying incident has not attracted the attention of teachers. I think this is the point that this book wants to express, and the setting of the picture highlights the theme.

Gretchen says

This is a great book to talk about the topic of bullying and not being a mute bystander. There are very few words in the book so each one is very important. The pictures will provide a great deal of discussion because they are both realistic and "images" at the same time. There is a lot to say about the different perspectives of the characters and what is actually happening in the story. This will be a book I'll read during the first week of school and probably again after the winter break. I see it as a real discussion starter which is what is needed.

Carol Royce Owen says

Tommy is bullied by Paul and other classmates because whenever he's embarrassed his face turns redder and redder. One girl wants to stop the teasing, but does she have the boldness to stand against the class bully?

Beth says

This one just didn't resonate with me.

Kaitlin says

Red, originally published in the United Kingdom, brings an easy to understand story of bullying to the United States. This story starts off with a girl making fun of a boy, Tommy, for being red in the face. As the story continues, other children begin to add in, until one boy take is too far. The reader gets to experience this situation through the girl's eyes as she fights with herself of what she wants to do in regard to this bully. The images in this story are very well done and help add to the story. As Tommy begins to get redder because of the teasing, the pages begin to turn redder as well. When the situation is alleviated, the intense red images turn to a brighter, more natural look. In my future classes, I can use this book to start a conversation about bullying. The way that the book is set up, it is very child friendly which makes it easier for the students to understand the meaning behind the book.

Asho says

I will admit that I skimmed this more than actually read it. The cover illustration appealed to L and she checked it out at the library, but she and I never got around to reading it together because she ended up enjoying other library books more. But when I asked her if she wanted to read it before it had to be returned she informed me that she had already read it. I guess she must have read it with Dad. Seems like a story with a good lesson, and perhaps something to check out again when she gets older.

Natalie says

Red is a children's book that deals with bullying, and is an important one to have in your library. A young boy named Tommy is bullied for his red cheeks by many students in his class, but in particular Paul. Paul takes it to extremes until a young girl stands up for Tommy in the end. This sparks a friendship among the young girl and Tommy in this simple yet beautiful story. The artwork adds dramatic emotion to the text and the proliferation of the color red throughout the book adds to its impact. This book is important as it discusses two quite opposite ideas- bullying and compassion. Red teaches readers that bullying can be done by kids of all ages, genders and cultures. It gives an insight to the bully, the bullied and those that want to stand up for the bullied but don't know how to approach the situation. It is a beautiful story about the bravery that it took for one little girl to stand up for her classmate.

Mario Flores says

This was another good book on bullying and I recommend it for teachers to read to their students. The story is about a boy named Tommy who gets teased for his cheeks turning red at the mention of something embarrassing being said about him in public. It begins with a mere observation about his cheeks, and turns

into a full-blown teasing target for others to point at. His female friend wants to stand up for him, but is too afraid of Paul, the biggest bully of them all, so she decides to keep quiet. I love how at the end she finally speaks up, and notices that others are speaking up with her, to the point where they all stand up to Paul and shame him away. I loved the message of strength in numbers doing positive things together, and I enjoyed the color-play of pages that depicted happy scenes with colorful backgrounds, as well as the sorrowful pictures with dark and gloomy colors.

Barbara says

It all starts over something silly, which is how most acts of bullying begin. The narrator, a little girl, points out Tommy's red cheeks, and their classmates tease him because he blushes so easily. Paul especially seems to enjoy pushing Tommy's buttons, and the narrator feels guilty for starting all this. When their teacher tries to find the source of the bullying, she ignores her fear of Paul and what the rest of her classmates will say, and tells the truth. The fact that she is the one who starts the bullying, even if unintentionally, and that she is also the one who eventually stops it serves as a tangible reminder that actions matter. I liked the description of Paul: "His tongue is as sharp as a knife. And his fist is as hard as a brick. He's twice as strong as me" (unpaged). Young readers will easily identify with this scenario and realize that it does take courage to stand up to a bully or to stand up for others. The reminder that everyone blushes at one time or another also indicates the silliness of the reason for Tommy being bullied. The illustrations, created with pencil, charcoal, ink, aquarelle, acrylic, and collage are lovely and fit the story quite well. This import from Belgium would certainly be useful in addressing how bullying begins and the different roles assumed by children during instances of bullying. It might start innocently enough with teasing, but look how quickly it can escalate.

Yuyine says

Pourquoi avoir choisi de parler de cet album alors que j'en lis d'autres dont je ne parle pas? Pourquoi celui-ci en particulier? Parce que Rouge est porteur de plein de messages essentiels, parce qu'il a une puissance énorme au niveau visuel et textuel, parce que Rouge est un album nécessaire pour dire non à la violence. Il relate l'histoire d'une jeune fille qui, sans prendre conscience de l'importance de ce qu'elle dit dévoile aux autres une différence chez Arthur. Une différence que les autres vont alors remarquer et utiliser pour se moquer de lui. Une différence ici physique mais qui peut très bien se remplacer par une différence vestimentaire, de coutume, de religion, etc. Et lorsque tout s'emballe, et qu'elle aimerait revenir en arrière pour arrêter ce qui se déroule, elle se retrouve effrayée par une petite brute qui lui impose de se taire, sous peine d'en subir les conséquences. C'est un album qui [...]

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